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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 487

May 7, 1943

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION recommends that the inter-American system which now binds the 21 republics of the Western Hemisphere into a working solidarity be the guide for the upbuilding of the new post-war world organization for securing the peace. This proposal from the Pan American Union has a special significance because it parallels ideas already put forward by President Roosevelt, Cordell Hull, and Sumner Welles, and comes at a time when Vice President Wallace has further strengthened the ties of the other American republics with the United States. (Christian Science Monitor)

BANANA LOAVES ought to be better known, says Dr. Emil J. Rausch of Arizona State Laboratory. The bananas are ripened, properly pretreated, and pressed into 100-pound blocks at the plantation. The dried-banana loaves have the uniform compactness of American cheese, a fine flavor, and excellent nutritive properties. (New York Times)

CONFERENCE ON "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE CARIBBEAN AREAS" stresses expansion of Latin American activities, particularly in the agricultural field, to extend as much help as possible to the Allied war program. "The economic problems of the post-war Caribbean will be concerned with the production of agricultural produce for home consumption, and of these, plus forest products and some minerals, [some] for export," Professor Bailey W. Diffie of City College said. Other speakers were Professor A. Curtis Wilgus of George Washington University, President Eric Williams of Howard University and Dr. Ernesto Galarza of the Pan American Union. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Latin American Economic Institute and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (New York Times)

ARGENTINE FARMERS COLLECT INSURANCE amounting to \$5,508,000 for crop losses caused by hail last year. (Washington Star)

GENERAL ENRIQUE PEÑARANDA, PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA, has arrived in Washington for an official visit. He was welcomed at the White House by President Roosevelt, members of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court, and Congressional leaders. General Peñaranda will conduct conversations on Bolivia's part in the war and the coordination of that country's efforts with those of the other United Nations. (New York Times)

BRAZIL CELEBRATES MAY DAY. President Getulio Vargas pays 7-1/2 cents at a workers' restaurant for a May Day luncheon of vitaminized vegetable, a meat course, dessert, and coffee. His luncheon companions were 2,000 workers celebrating May Day. Several of these workers' restaurants are already operating successfully. (New York Times)

U.S. STARTS BUYING BRAZIL'S UNEXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF COFFEE. The purchases were made through the Commodity Credit Corporation and will supplement normal private business transactions to the extent that buying the basic quotas aid in the stabilization of prices of Brazil's most important crop. Brazil's unshipped carry-over from the 1941-42 quota totaled 2,659,000 bags, and the basic quota for 1942-43 was set at 9,300,000 bags, but private shipments have moved more readily in recent weeks and should account for a considerable part of the quota, coffee men said. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PRESIDENT BATISTA ORDERS WAGE INCREASES averaging 10 to 20 percent for 40,000



workers on Cuban railroads. The President observed that railway revenues increased last year by \$4,000,000 over the total for 1941. He ordered specific wage boost that the Cuban Labor Confederation estimated would put an additional \$2,000,000 annually into the wage envelopes of the workers. (Washington Star)

PLANS TO SELL THE GUTEMALAN COFFEE, SUGAR, AND CINCHONA PLANTATIONS of a former German corporation to the Government of Guatemala have been disclosed by Leo T. Crowley, Alien Property Custodian. The Plantations now are the property of the Central American Plantations Corporation, 52 percent of whose stock was seized by Crowley from Germans last fall. Mr. Crowley said the sale was in accord with Guatemala's general policy of returning Guatemalan properties to native ownership wherever possible. He also said that the Guatemala Government will assign to the Defense Supplies Corporation contracts formerly held by the Central American Plantations Corporation for operating and developing the plantations. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

17,000 HAITIANS GET LAND JOBS in the first 18 months of the grow-more-food campaign by a Haitian-United States enterprise in Haiti. (Washington Star)

MEXICO TO SEND NON-FARM LABORERS TO U.S. These workers will go under terms similar to those governing farm workers and are expected to be used on railroad and industrial jobs to alleviate the manpower shortage. (Washington Star)

PORT DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY IN MEXICO to improve two principal ports on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Puerto México on the Gulf of Mexico, and Salina Cruz on the Pacific. Actual construction work will soon be started covering the building of new breakwaters and warehouses, the reconstruction of present wharves, and the dredging of the harbor to enable larger ships to be served in these ports. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICAN RESIDENTS LIVING JUST SOUTH OF THE BORDER will be permitted to buy certain rationed goods in this country, according to an announcement by the Office of Price Administration. The new OPA orders cover shoes, processed foods, meats, canned fish, cheeses, fats and oils. Coffee and sugar are not included. About 250,000 Mexicans will be eligible to obtain these rationed supplies. Ration-sharing is restricted to Mexicans living 12 miles south of the Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico borders and 55 miles south of the California border. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

GENERAL ALBERTO SALINAS CARRANZA, chief of the department of civil aeronautics in Mexico, states that Mexico looks with favor on the growth of Mexican airlines doing domestic business and expanding into foreign fields. He said, however, that "the Mexican government looks with sympathy on United Airlines' desire to purchase the Mexican air company Líneas Aéreas Mineras, S.A," pointing out that United Airlines would employ Mexican personnel in operations within the country's limits. Air transport is cheaper in Mexico than mule packs, General Carranza said, and immense quantities of coffee, chicle, and concentrates of metals are now shipped speedily and inexpensively from inaccessible, remote areas. He summed up the situation with: "Aviation is good for war, for peace, for discovering the North Pole, for agriculture, and for everything." (Washington Star)

NEW BRIDGE PLANNED ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE RIVER, connecting the cities of Rio Grande in Texas, and Ciudad Camargo in Mexico. The estimated cost of this project will be about \$100,000. (Export Trade and Shipper)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEW DIGEST\*

No. 488

May 14, 1943

CHESTER DAVIS ASKS CONGRESS to permit Commodity Credit Corporation to enlarge its borrowing power by \$1,000,000,000 and extend the life of the corporation until June 30, 1947, or 2 years after the war. The message of Mr. Davis was contained in a letter directed to Representative Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, and read in part as follows: "The additional borrowing power is needed to finance the activities of the corporation as a war agency and to enable the corporation to carry out loan, purchase and other operations relating to cotton, corn, wheat, rice, tobacco, peanuts, potatoes, butter, cheese, hemp, flax, naval stores, vegetables for canning, and other commodities and production facilities." One of the important phases of the Commodity Credit Corporation is the foreign purchase program involving purchase of commodities strategically needed in the United States or to protect the economy of Latin American countries against wartime disruption. (New York Journal Of Commerce)

ROTENONE CONTROL UNDER THE WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATOR. The War Production Board reserves the right to determine the amount of Government requirements for rotenone and rotenone insecticides, to regulate or prohibit the manufacture or importation of rotenone, and to regulate or prohibit the use or sale of rotenone insecticides for nonagricultural purposes. Technically, rotenone is defined as the active insecticidal ingredients of the roots of derris, cubé, barbasco, tuba or timbó; the term covers crude and processed rotenone. (New York Journal of Commerce)

DELEGATES FROM THREE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES arrive in the United States on their way to the United Food Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia. The representatives include Francisco Gómez, head of the Uruguayan delegation, Dr. Paris E. Menéndez from Paraguay, and Gerardo Klinge, Peruvian delegate. (Washington Star)

18 LATIN AMERICAN ENGINEERS, who are studying this country's rural-electrification program, have just completed a 3,900-mile tour of industrial centers and educational institutions in 8 States of the East and Midwest. The tour was arranged by the Rural Electrification Administration of the Department of Agriculture. During the tour the engineers visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the General Electric Institute, and Harvard and Princeton Universities. (New York Journal of Commerce)

SIX-MONTH PERMITS IS GRANTED TO 5 FOREIGN AIRLINES to serve the Caribbean area. Emphasizing the temporary nature of the permits, the Civil Aeronautics Board pointed out that: "Inasmuch as the necessity for these permits result from an emergency condition arising out of prosecution of the war, the issuance thereof will not be recognized as constituting any basis for future plans of permanent operating rights and does not represent any indication of permanent policy with respect to

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international commercial aviation." The carriers concerned are TACA, British West Indian Airways, Royal Dutch Airlines, Expreso Aero Inter-Americano, and Compañía Nacional Cubana de Aviación. (Washington Star)

NAVY DEVELOPS "SHARK-REPELLANT," a substance which drives off man-eating sharks, to protect shipwrecked sailors and merchant seamen. The substance was developed by the Office of Scientific Research and Development and Marine Studies, Inc., in Massachusetts, Florida, and Ecuador. Its composition is secret, but it will be distributed soon to all personnel operating in shark-infested areas. (New York Times)

ARGENTINE-UNITED STATES RELATIONS. Speaking at meeting of the Argentina-American Chamber of Commerce, Edmund Waterman urged the adoption of a three-point program by British and American government officials to clear up the misunderstandings which may work to this country's detriment in post-war trade with Argentina. Mr. Waterman declared that the British Food Buying Commission should be known as the United Nations Buying Commission; British Navicerts should be known as United Nations Navicerts; and that American businessmen in Argentina should be drafted into service to foster relations as good as those fostered by the British. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA'S PRESIDENT VISTS ASSEMBLY LINE IN BUFFALO and expresses interest in the production of large transport planes as holding the possibility of solving his mountainous country's transportation problems. President Enrique Peñaranda thinks that the 2-engined C-47 Commando transports might serve to link Bolivia's high, tin-mining regions with the tropical agricultural lowlands. (New York Times)

1942 CASTOR-BEAN PRODUCTION IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL probably exceeded 45,000 metric tons. The heaviest production was in the western part of the State where São Paulo forms a wedge between the States of Matto Grosso and Paraná. Most of the castor-beans are cultivated on poor worn-out soil and consist of the smaller brown and brown-striped beans. The lesser, wild, production consists chiefly of the large black and large white-striped varieties. (Brazil)

MEXICO INCREASES ITS EXPORTS TO NICARAGUA in February by several hundred percent. The exports which were sent by rail consisted mainly of textiles. (New York Times)

SENATE APPROVES LEGISLATION CEDING TO PANAMA extensive United States holdings in that country -- an action that President Roosevelt described as desirable to remove conditions "which do not make for confidence and friendship." The measure turns over to Panama water and sewage systems and real estate holdings in the cities of Colón and Panama, and liquidates a \$2,700,000 debt representing Panama's share in the construction of the Chorrera-Rio Hato Highway. (New York Times)

THE PANAMA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY gives unanimous and final approval to a law ratifying an agreement granting the United States sites for defense bases. (Washington Star)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEW DIGEST\*

No. 489

May 21, 1943

INTER-AMERICAN TRADE RISES AS CARGO SPACE SHRINKS. Latin American buyers more and more looking to their neighbors for sorely needed supplies and the old economic maxim of "there's always a substitute" is proving itself all over again. That the revolutions in both industry and transportation now in progress in Latin America are bound to have important repercussions is self-evident. In addition, the volume and efficiency of agricultural production is changing for the better. Completion of the Latin American Highway from the United States to Panama will make it even easier for Central American countries to exchange their products. (Christian Science Monitor)

NEW AGENCY FORMED TO AID INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT. The new institution, known as the Office of Foreign Investment Information, will work in connection with the Export-Import Bank of Washington, the U. S. Commission of the Inter-American Development Commission, and the Bureau of Domestic and Foreign Commerce in the Department of Commerce. Secretary Jesse Jones announces that the agency will endeavor to develop industrial enterprises after the war, when shipping facilities and manufacturing plants of the United States will be released from war tasks to resume the peaceful job of increasing production for civilian needs. "Special attention will be given to establishing closer relations with industrial groups in all the American Republics," the announcement said. (Export Trade and Shipper)

U. S. ACTS TO IMPORT ARGENTINE CASEIN. The WPB Chemicals Division has authorized the importation of approximately 800 tons of Argentine casein in response to industry complaints that the output of casein for use in waterproof paints and adhesives is insufficient to meet the requirements for war use. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE SURPLUS ARGENTINE FLAXSEED SUPPLIES have been earmarked for fuel. This means that some 70,000,000 bushels of flaxseed, either in the natural state or as oil, will be consumed as fuel in Argentina. Experiments are said to have shown that many of the diesel engines and other types of motors using fuel oil can take a mixture of 80 percent linseed oil and 20 percent fuel oil. Total purchases by the United Kingdom and United States have been several thousand tons since last fall. Only about one-third of these purchases have been exported. The total business for export does not make even an appreciable dent in the total Argentine stocks of which about 46,000,000 bushels are still available. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA AIDS FARMERS. Under a decree approving the National Agrarian Council's budget for the current year, provision is made for the expenditure of 29,500,000 pesos (an Argentine peso equals about 25 cents at current exchange rates) on the initial work of colonization. The budget authorizes the purchase of land valued up to 21,524,998 pesos. Some of the proposed settlements will raise corn and cattle, while those near the cities will consist of small farms and dairies, market gardens, orchards, flower gardens, and chicken farms. (New York Times)

PRESIDENT RIOS OF CHILE and Foreign Minister Joaquín Fernández will leave Santiago June 17 for a visit to the United States and other American countries. (Christian Science Monitor)



COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DECREES CONTROL over prices of necessities such as food, clothing, construction materials, drugs, repair parts, and rents. This is the first step taken to meet the threat of inflation due to the large increase of money in the hands of the public and the lack of consumer goods. (New York Times)

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC puts into operation the first of a group of wooden motor-driven schooners being built in the island republic to help overcome the wartime shipping shortage in the Caribbean. The schooners are being constructed with aid from the United States in the form of Export-Import Bank credits and materials and equipment that are not obtainable locally. The motor-driven schooners are particularly servicable for interisland trade in the Caribbean. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO PLANS TO BUILD HIGH-OCTANE REFINERY with a daily capacity of 5,000 barrels. Efraim Buenroster, head of Petroleos Mexicanos, has been in the United States for several weeks for the purpose of obtaining materials for a \$10,000,000 oil improvement program in Mexico. (Washington Star)

MEXICO SETS PRICES TO CURB FOOD COSTS and smash the ring of speculators who have been partially responsible for the present high cost of living. The far-reaching government decrees empower the Secretariats of Economy and Agriculture to fix prices all the way from the producer to consumer. Machinery to govern distribution of products throughout the country and to punish violators also was provided for. The two secretariats will cooperate with the consortium that was formed by the representatives of many commercial and financial enterprises charged with the task of purchasing and distributing the foodstuffs. President Ávila Camacho warned that if the present plan failed because of the lack of cooperation on the part of the bodies represented in the consortium, drastic enforcement measures would be enacted. (New York Times)

EARLY PERUVIAN AGRICULTURE reviewed in bulletin of the National Geographic Society. The ancient Inca agricultural system, mentioned in a recent speech by Vice President Wallace at Lima, was as renowned for its tillage as for its "ever normal granary" idea. Its stairstep acreage is still a wonder of the world. Some terraces of more than 50 "steps" lifted their topmost gardens to the height of the Washington Monument. Important crops of ancient Peru included the potato, Indian corn, the sweetoptato, and cassava. (New York Times)

FERTILIZER RATIONING PUT INTO EFFECT IN PUERTO RICO in order that an adequate amount of the limited supplies will be made available for the Island's food-production program. The order directs the U. S. D. A. War Board for Puerto Rico, which will administer the rationing program, to reserve not less than 10,000 tons of fertilizer on hand for food crops. The remaining amount of fertilizer will be rationed to producers of sugarcane on the basis of their past use of fertilizer for this crop. (USDA Summary)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

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ARGENTINA PRODUCES "TURKISH" TOBACCO after 5 years of experiments in different parts of the country. It was cultivated, cured, and baled under the direction of the technical department of the National Tobacco Institute, of which Doctor Daniel Amadeo y Videla is the president. Approximately 4,000 kilograms of tobacco have been produced this year. It was sold to the manufacturers at 20 pesos (about \$2.50) for 10 kilograms, the commercial value varying between 30 and 40 pesos per 10 kilos. (New York Times)

BRITAIN REGAINS LEAD IN ARGENTINE TRADING. Figures covering the first 4 months of this year show that 30.7 percent of the total value of Argentine exports went to Britain, whereas the United States was second with 24 percent. At the same time the United Kingdom supplied 24.2 percent of Argentine's imports, and the United States was a runner-up with 23.8 percent. These figures reversed the situation existing in the corresponding period of last year, when the United States topped both lists. (New York Times)

END OF STRIFE IN BOLIVIA PLEDGED BY LEADERS. The beginning of an era of domestic peace within Bolivia is indicated in an interchange of correspondence between President Enrique Peñeranda and his former political opponent Dr. José Antonio Arze, chairman of the Left Revolutionary party of Bolivia. In answer to a list of questions submitted by Dr. Arze, the President indicated that he would grant the "fullest guaranties to the labor unions" and that the recent labor code would be resubmitted to Congress with recommendations for the deletion of "some gaps unfavorable to the workers." General Peñeranda also agreed to study the suggestion of Dr. Arze that the government create a corporation of wages and social welfare to study "the means of giving bread, clothing and homing to the people." (New York Times)

BRAZILIAN RUBBER WORKERS GET DEFERRED DRAFT CLASSIFICATION. The order exempting them from army mobilization was signed by War Minister General Eurice Gasper Dutra and was designed to help meet a labor shortage and enable Brazil to achieve a 1943 goal of 40,000 tons of crude rubber in the Amazon Valley. The Brazilian Government had attempted to bring 50,000 new workers into the Amazon producing districts by the end of May, but an authorized source said only half that number had been obtained. In another country-wide move to push Amazon rubber production far above the 18,000 tons of 1942, Brazil is completing plans for a "National Rubber Month" during June. (Washington Star)

CHILE WILL SUPPLY MORE THAN A MILLION PAIRS OF SHOES to the United States armed forces, according to a report disclosed following prolonged conversations between American representatives and Chilean producers. The negotiations began when manufacturers and workers in shoe industries made an offer to Vice President Henry A. Wallace during his recent visit to furnish important quantities of footwear. (New York Times)

NEW COLOMBIAN LAW OUTLINES MEASURES FOR ECONOMIC DEFENSE. According to this law, articles of prime necessity, defined as foodstuffs, drugs, and other products widely consumed by the poorer classes, shall not be subject to harmful speculation. The law authorizes the creation of a Commission of National Economic Defense to consist of 5 persons appointed by the President. The commission will be charged with studying and recommending to the executive power, measures for (1) enabling Colombian industry, agriculture and stock raising to achieve the greatest production of the materials most necessary for national consumption; (2) regulating the

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importation and exportation of raw materials and manufactured articles so as to stimulate the economic development of the country; (3) coordinating the various means of transportation within the country so as to improve communications with the exterior; (4) drawing up financial proposals for realizing these ends.  
(Export Trade and Shipper)

CUBA TO SUPPLY UNITED STATES WITH 40,000,000 POUNDS OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES annually according to Ramon Zaydin, Prime Minister, at Havana. (Christian Science Monitor)

PLAN TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT EXHIBIT OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS IN MEXICO CITY is being studied by the Convention of the Association of Mexican bankers. The exhibit would serve as a meeting ground for manufacturers, sellers, and buyers from all parts of the Hemisphere. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICO AMENDS QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON BANANAS FROM FOREIGN SOURCE. The Ministry of Agriculture will now permit shipments from Guatemala to enter Mexico but only those in transit to the United States under certain specified conditions. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MORE THAN 600,000 TONS OF PUERTO RICAN SUGAR have been purchased by the Federal Commodity Credit Corporation. Resale and shipment is regarded as probable. The government purchase price was \$3.74, but sale to Great Britain must conform to the world market price of \$2.65, lend-lease taking the loss. An official of the sugar producers' association said that British sale would not only give immediate benefit, "money in the bank," but would relieve the warehouse situation and end the irony of empty boats leaving Puerto Rico to take on sugar at Cuba for American ports. (New York Times)